irrigation projects which were beyond the resources capability of the State Governments and were in an advanced stage of completion. Under this programme CLA of Rs. 265.28 crore has been provided to Chhattisgarh for early completion of 5 projects and one project has been completed with the assistance provided under AIBP. The escalation in cost of irrigation projects is related to the delay in implementation of the project. The reasons for delay in implementation of irrigation projects are resources crunch of State Government, delay in resettlement and rehabilitation of the project affected families, land acquisition problem etc.

**Grants for irrigation projects under AIBP**

2313. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are reconsidering its decision for providing grants of Rs. 707 crores to Maharashtra Government for 31 irrigation projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Central Government has received any correspondence from the State Government of Karnataka for the modification in Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Project; and

(d) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka had requested during October, 2004 for relaxing the guidelines for providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) so as to include minor irrigation schemes of Karnataka State under the Programme. As per the existing guidelines of AIBP, minor irrigation schemes of non-special category States like Karnataka are not eligible to receive CLA under AIBP.